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PATENT APPLICATION

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16-8-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

MINORU KUSAKABE, et al.

Application No.: 09/671,623

Filed: September 28, 2000

For: IMAGE PROCESSING
APPARATUS AND METHOD,
AND STORAGE MEDIUM

Examiner: M. Nguyen

Group Art Unit: 2626

September 16, 2003

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SEP 22 2003

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to Japan 5-130376, which is listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of Japan 5-130376 is enclosed.

Japan 5-130376 was first cited in a Final Rejection for a Japanese Application corresponding to the subject application. A copy of the Final Rejection, which is date June 27, 2003, is enclosed. Also enclosed is an English-language abstract for Japan 5,130376.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the

claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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